

NOV 1 1957

UP60

FOIAb3b

CPYRGH(INTELLIGENCE)

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WARNED ONLY A FEW HOURS BEFORE RUSSIA LAUNCHED ITS EARTH SATELLITE THAT IT MIGHT HAPPEN "AT ANY TIME," IT WAS DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE PREDICTION WAS MADE BY THE CIA'S DR. HERBERT SCOVILLE JR., ON OCT. 4 AT A CLOSED MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

IT PRESUMABLY WAS THE BASIS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT THE NEXT DAY THAT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE LAUNCHING OF SPUTNIK.

SCOVILLE'S REPORT SAID "IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE US" IF RUSSIA ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCHING OF A SATELLITE AT ANY TIME, AND "WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR IT."

"THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE RUSSIAN EARTH SATELLITE," HE SAID. "THEY WON'T ANNOUNCE ANYTHING UNTIL THEY HAVE IT UP THERE."

THE REPORT ALSO SAID U.S. INTELLIGENCE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER RUSSIA HAD FIRED AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE AS OF OCT. 4, BUT IT CONCEDED THAT MOSCOW'S ICBM CLAIMS MIGHT BE TRUE.

THE COMMITTEE RELEASED SCOVILLE'S STATEMENT TODAY AT AN OPEN MEETING CALLED TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR RAPIDLY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

SCOVILLE'S OCT. 4 REPORT ALSO SAID "THERE IS NO QUESTION" THAT MILITARILY THE RUSSIANS ARE "MOVING FORWARD BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS."

HE SAID, AS AN EXAMPLE, THAT RUSSIA HAS "IN THE ELECTRONICS FIELD, A TREMENDOUS PROGRAM FOR SATISFYING MAJOR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS."

"RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE RUSSIAN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ANTARCTIC IS SO SUPERIOR THAT THE U.S. EXPEDITION HAS USED IT ON OCCASION TO SEND MESSAGES," HE SAID.

HE CITED RECENT RUSSIAN ATOMIC TESTS AND THE SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT

CPYRGHT

IT HAS FIRED AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.

SCOVILLE SAID THE ICBM PROGRAM HAS A "HIGH PRIORITY AND THEY ARE PUTTING FORTH TREMENDOUS EFFORTS."

"WE KNOW THEY COULD HAVE FIRED IT BUT CANNOT PROVE WHETHER THEY DID OR NOT," HE SAID.

11/1—PA1144A